

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 260917

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX(DEMOSS, RICHARD WAYNE)

SUBJECT: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO:
RICHARD WAYNE DEMOSS

REF: STATE 194199

1. MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST: PER STARK MATERIAL DEMOSS ALLEGES THAT HE WAS THREATENED WITH PHYSICAL ABUSE AT TIME OF ARREST IF HE REMAINED ADAMANT IN REFUSAL TO MAKE DECLARATION BEFORE MINISTERIO PUBLICO. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT IN INTERVIEW WITH CONOFF FOUR DAYS AFTER ARREST, DEMOSS MADE NO COMPLAINT IN THIS REGARD. BECAUSE OF LACK OF POSSIBLE SUBSTANTIATION AT THIS TIME, NO ACTION APPEARS FEASIBLE. WITH REGARD TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM, WE LOOK TO EMBASSY TO CONTINUE SEEKING SOLUTION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

COMPLAINS PER STARK MATERIAL ABOUT EXTORTION IN PRISON, DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT IN INTERVIEW WITH CONOFF ON JUNE 13, 1972 DEMOSS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED EMBASSY NOT TO INTERVENE WITH PRISON DIRECTOR FOR FEAR OF BRINGING ABOUT RETALIATORY TREATMENT. WE LOOK TO EMBASSY TO CONTINUE
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SEEKING REMEDY GENERAL PROBLEM OF ABUSE OF POWER BY

"MAYORES."

3. TRIAL DETENTION: DEPARTMENT NOTES IT WAS 21 MONTHS FROM DEMOSS' DATE OF ARREST UNTIL HE WAS SENTENCED. SINCE COURT ACTION IN HIS CASE IS NOW COMPLETED, NO FURTHER ACTION IS SUGGESTED; IN FUTURE CASES, HOWEVER, PROMPT EXPLORATION OF THIS PROBLEM WITH PRISONER IS RECOMMENDED.

4. CASE REVIEW CONSIDERED COMPLETE. KISSINGER

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